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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
COLOMBIA

IPF:(1987-91) $13 100 000

(COL/90/004) - Amazonian Territorial Planning

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	25 September 1991
Expected duration:	Three years and six months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	National Planning Department
Proposed UNDP contribution:	Nil
Third-party cost sharing:	$ 2 087 100 Source of funds:The Netherlands
Total UNDP budget:	$ 2 087 100

Project background

Forests cover an area of 53 million hectares representing 46 per cent of Colombia. During the last few years an average of 600,000 hectares of forests are being cut every year. About 76 per cent of deforestation has been caused by the colonization of Orinoquia, Amazonia, Uraba and Madgalena Medio. The colonization of the Amazonia, in particular, has generated inadequate productive cycles considering the ecological conditions of this region. Settler populations are moving in short periods of time cutting trees for subsistence and leaving deforestated areas that are only suitable for cattle farming. At the same time, there has been a rapid and disorganized growth of human settlements, without the provision of basic services, that has contributed to worsen the already deteriorated living condition of the inhabitants in this region, that represents a population close to 500 000 people of more than 50 indigenous groups. The fragile ecosystem in the Amazonia is being interfered by settlers and natural resource extractors. This is producing a rapid environmental imbalance, without achieving sustainable development with an adequate use of the land.

Although legislation for the protection and development of natural resources is in place, it has not been sufficient to co-ordinate the activities of the public sector in this area. The presence of the State in the Amazonia and Orinoquia has been characterized by its dispersion due to the size of the region, its isolation from the rest of the country and the lack of co-ordination among the various local administrations. A national policy for the appropriate management of this region does not exist due to a lack of adequate knowledge of its natural and institutional resources as well as to the existence of limited territorial planning instruments and mechanisms.

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[1] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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The Government of Colombia has requested UNDP to assist the National Planning Department to develop adequate planning instruments for Amazonia and Orinoquia as part of the Colombian Action Forestry Plan, which was supported by UNDP since its inception. The Government of the Netherlands has agreed to provide funds for the implementation of a project in this area.

Description of project

The long-term objectives of the project are to:(a) achieve the third objective of the Fourth Country Programme which is to strengthen the management capacity of the State; (b) concentrate on the fourth concentration area foreseen in the Fifth Country Programme which is to support the design and implementation of programmes in the area of the environment;and (c) create instruments and mechanisms at the regional level to strengthen and consolidate the regional planning system, particularly in those aspects related to the definition of policy objectives for the region of Amazonia and the management of renewable natural resources.

The immediate objectives of the project are to:(a) present alternative planning scenarios to be used in the formulation of development policies and strategies of the region, through the creation of a geographical information system that includes the collection and classification of information, map design and matrix correlation taking into account biodiversity, indigenous reserves, human settlements and colonization; (b) establish co-ordination mechanisms and promote the participation of the different governmental institutions at central and regional levels, NGOs and the local communities; and (c) strengthen the capacity of institutions in Amazonia and Orinoquia in order to manage and plan natural resources through the provision of information systems, procedures, techniques and training of personnel.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 372 work-months of international and national professional personnel in planning, biodiversity, ecological zoning, geology, economics, agriculture, demography, soil degradation and erosion, history, botany, and cartography; subcontracts with NGOs for field work and the application of appropriate technologies; training programmes through workshops in regional planning, conservation of natural resources, information systems, data collection and study tours; equipment for information systems, cartography, laboratory, remote sensing, photography and communications; administrative support; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 218 200
Subcontract	259 000
Training	133 300
Equipment	240 400
Miscellaneous	228 200
Total	2 087 100

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